

From: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
To: [Janet C Hawkins; Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: RE: Request to Speak Before Council Under Communications
Date: Friday, March 19, 2021 8:17:51 AM

Hi Janet,

I have you confirmed for Wednesday March 31st at 9:30a.m. to speak at Council.

Thank you! Have a great day.

Tristan Sakamoto

-----Original Message-----

From: Janet C Hawkins <janetchawkins@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Request to Speak Before Council Under Communications

Hello:

I am requesting to speak during “Communications” at an upcoming Council meeting.

I wish to speak on the topic of the “Audit of the Office of Civic Life.”

Thank you,
Janet Hawkins
4675 SW Cullen Blvd.
Portland OR 97221
503-453-2903
janetchawkins@msn.com

Sent from my iPhone

Request of Janet Hawkins to address Council regarding audit of the Office of
Civic Life (Communication)

March 31, 2021
Placed on file

Filed 3/23/2021

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

Tristan R
By Sakamoto Digitally signed by Tristan R Sakamoto
Date: 2021.03.23 13:44:51 -07'00'
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Rubio		
2. Ryan		
3. Hardesty		
4. Mapps		
Wheeler		

Janet Hawkins-
City Council Testimony Item #187– Communications
Comments on the Office of Civic Life
March 31, 2021

Hello Mayor Wheeler & Council Members:

My name is Janet Hawkins and I live in SW Portland. I am here to testify on the “Outside Review” of the Office of Civic Life. I have been active in neighborhood association for a decade, but I am representing my own views.

I am asking the City Council to release the Outside Review document that was commissioned last year and completed two months ago. Commissioner Hardesty’s Office has held this report for two months ostensibly to conduct an analysis of the information and I believe there has been ample time to conduct this work. The city has an obligation to present this information to current and former Civic Life employees and to the public.

The **delay in releasing** the Outside Review is concerning for numerous reasons. Employee workplace complaints are still unresolved after two years. This is important, because we are failing these employees in delaying action on the findings of the Outside Review. We are also failing Portlanders.

Oregon Public Broadcasting published an article on the Office of Civic Life titled “A Culture of Fear” earlier this month. This article highlighted the impact of a toxic workplace on Civic Life’s employees as well as in its community engagement programs. I recognize that the Outside Review will contain confidential employee information, which should not be released as public information. Importantly, it will contain **non-confidential** information on the Civic Life workplace. As a start, Commissioner Hardesty’s Office could release the **Review’s Executive Summary and Recommendations**.

The reality is the broken management of the Civic Life impacts the entire city. The “bullying, harassing, and retaliatory behaviors” described in the OPB article escaped City Hall and found their way into our community. Civic Life has a documented history of contentious communications with neighborhoods. There are on-going complaints against the office for “unethical contracting practices.” It’s too simple to argue that Civic Life’s structural challenges are due to its portfolio of diverse programs. Let’s learn from the Outside Review about whether Civic Life’s management is effective or inadequate.

The city of Portland’s “Core Values Resolution” speaks to “knowledge sharing, accountability, transparent budgetary decisions.” Delays in releasing public information diminish our trust in government. The city’s Core Values will go unrealized without the trust and support of Portlanders.

The city of Portland is now engaged in a difficult budget process which will determine the future of civic involvement in our government. Can we really entrust budget dollars to the Office of Civic Life without a full review and response to the Outside Review?

I respectfully ask the Portland City Council for the public release of the Office of Civic Life’s Outside Review document. Thank you.